

OF
GLOCESTER-SHIRE.

A Compendious A C C O U N T

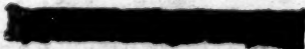
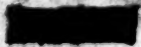
Its Dimensions, Bounds, Air, Soil, and Commodities.

**Its Rivers and Castles, Noblemen's and Gentlemen's
Seats, *Roman* Camps, Coins, and Stations:**

With a short History of its Religious Houses, describing their Order, Founders, Dedication, the Time of their Foundation, and Yearly Revenues.



Printed in the Year 1712.



To the Inhabitants of the County
OF
GLOUCESTER.

Gentlemen, &c.

I Hope You will believe me, when I assure You that nothing, but a real Desire to serve You, could have put me upon offering this little Piece to publick View. Your Approbation is all the Recompence I desire, and I shall rest Satisfied, if what has been my Recreation for some Days, can furnish You with any tolerable Entertainment for half an Hour. I need not tell You Who I am, for if You like what You have bought, I have what I Desire without it; if not, 'tis my Interest, that You should not know whom to blame. Most of the following Relations are built upon the Authority of Camden, Speed, Dugdale, and other later Authors of unquestionable Credit; so that if they have led me into Errors, let them have their share of the Censure. And as for such Unaccuracies in the Composure, as may stand in need of an Apology, I would willingly perswade my self, Your Good Nature will easily Excuse them. I should scarce have given You the Trouble of this Address, but that 'tis neither usual nor handsome to leap immediately from the Title-Page to the Matter; and considering that You are going to be my Judges, I thought it best to bespeak Your Favour. And if by this Performance I do not forfeit Your Good Opinion, You may expect something else from

Your very humble and

obedient Servant, &c.

Topographical Description

O F

GLOCESTER-SHIRE.

GLOCESTER-SHIRE is in *Glocester* Diocese, 60 Miles in Length, 26 in Breadth, and 190 in Circumference, containing about 800 000 Acres. The Air is Sweet and Healthy, the Soil Rich and Fruitful, especially the middle part of the County, where it sinks into a Vale, and spreads it self into a fertile Plain. It is Water'd by the Rivers, *Severn, Wye, Leden, Stroud, Churn, Colne, Wind-rash, Thames, Frome, and Avon.* Its chief Commodities are Corn, Wooll, Cloth, Iron, Timber, Bacon, Cheese, Cyder, and Salmon. It is divided into 39 Hundreds, which contain 280 Parishes, and 26 Market-Towns. It hath 8 Representatives in Parliament, viz. 2 for the County, 2 for the City of *Glocester*, 2 for the Borough of *Cirencester*, and 2 for the Borough of *Tewksbury*. It lies bounded by *Worcester- and Warwick-shire* on the North, *Oxford- and Wilt-shire* on the East, *Hereford- and Monmouth-shire* on the West, and *Somerset- and Wilt-shire* on the South.

THE more Western Part of this County beyond the *Severn* is shaded with Woods, and is at this Day call'd *Dean-Forest*, 20 Miles Long, 10 Broad, and containing above 30 000 Acres. The Soil is a deep Clay, fit for the growth of Oak. Its Hills are full of Iron-Ore, which they work here with Forges, till by the Violence of Fire it becomes Fluid. In this Forest, upon the River *Severn*, stand the ancient Villages *Tudenham*, and *Wollaston* a Seat of the Duke of *Beaufort's*, with *Lydney* the Seat of the *Winter's*; But of most ancient Note is *Antoninus's Abode*, now dwindled into a small Village, and call'd *Arvington*, having nothing besides its Antiquity to recommend it to our Observation. Not far from the River *Wye*, which parts this County from *Monmouth-shire*, stand the

the Ruinous Remains of *St. Briavel's Castle*, now the Earl of *Berkley's*; and a little higher is *Newland*, a large Parish standing in a pleasant Plain, where are vast Mine-Pits of 60 or 70 Foot deep; and an Alms-House for 16 poor Men and Women, erected by Mr. *Jones* a *Hamburgh Merchant*: Here are also no less than 6 Charity Schools for the teaching of 80 poor Children. Crossing the Country from hence to the North-East, we meet with *Westbury*, a very large Parish, reputed above 20 Miles in Circumference; and *Flaxley*, where was formerly an Abby of *Cistercian Monks*, built in the Reign of *K. Stephen* by *Roger Earl of Hereford*, the annual Revenues whereof at the Suppression were worth 112*l.* 13*s.* and 1*d.* Here is nothing else that deserves our Notice in this Woody Country besides *NEWNHAM* and *DEAN*, Two pretty Market-Towns, and *NEWENT* on the Edge of the Country, having 2 Charity Schools for 50 Boys and Girls. This Mannor of *Newent* was given by *K. Henry I.* to the Abby of *Cormeilles* in *Normandy*, and so became an Alien Priory to that Monastery, 'till *K. Henry IV.* gave it to the Collegiate Church at *Fodringhey* in *Northampton-shire*.

Mon.
Angl.

OUR next Guide is the River *Sabrina*, or *Severn*, which rising out of *Plinlymon Hill* in *Montgomery-shire*, waters *Shrop-shire* and *Worcester-shire*, and runs in this County above 40 Miles by Land; 'tis in some places 2 or 3 Miles over, and yet the Tide flows the whole Breadth of the Current as high as *Tewksbury*. It is remarkable, that the Tides one Year are largest at Full-Moon, the next at the Change, and that one Year the Night-Tides are largest, the other the Day-Tides.

THE *SEVERN*, which for a Broad Channel, Swift Stream, and Excellent Fish, is inferiour to no River in *England*, at its first Entrance into this Shire receives the *Avon*, and the *Swilyate*, between which is seated *TEWKSBURY*, a large and fair Town on the Confines of *Worcester-shire*, noted for the Woollen Manufactory, and Mustard-Balls, famous also for the Battle fought here, *An. 1471.* so fatal to the *Lancastrian* Family, by the Death of Prince *Edward*, only Son to *Henry VI.* This Town had its Name from one *Theocus*, who here led the Life of a Hermite, whence in some ancient Records we find it written *Theokesbury*. It was once beautified with a stately Abby, little of which is remaining, saving the Church, which is now Parochial, and had once a fair Spire upon it. The Abby was first built by *Oddo Duke of Mercia*, *A.D. 715.* for *Benedictine Monks*, and was restored by *R. Fitz-Haimon*, *A. D. 1102.* By the pious Munificence of whom, and several other Benefactors, its Yearly Revenues were worth at

GLOCESTER-SHIRE.

5

at the Dissolution 1598l. 1s. and 3d. Hence we go down the Stream to *Deorhirst*, whose little Monastery was destroyed by the Danes, and see on both sides the River Two fine Seats, *Norton*, the Lord Viscount *Say* and *Seal's*, and *Corse-Court* the Earl of *Coventry's*. Mon. Angl.

AND now the *Severn*, after various Windings and Turnings, parts it self to make the Island *Alney*, famous for the Duel fought there between K. *Edmund*, and *Canute* the Dane, A. D. 1016. who, after a long and doubtful Fight, agreed to divide the Kingdom between them; and then it hastens to the chief City of the County, GLOCESTER, the *Glevum* of *Antoninus*. This City was built by the Romans on purpose to be a Curb to the *Silures*, who inhabited *Hereford*-and *Monmouth-shires*, and a Colony was placed here call'd, *Colonia Glevum*, as appears from an Inscription yet to be seen Camd. in *Bath Walls* near the North-Gate,

DEC. COLONIÆ GLEV.
VIXIT ANN. LXXXVI.

It lies extended upon the *Severn*, over which it has a fair Stone-Bridge, and is beautified with many handsome well-built Streets. Before the Siege of this City in 1643, it was adorn'd with 11 Parish-Churches, but 5 of them were then demolish'd. On the South-side of the Town was once a Castle, built in the time of *William the Conqueror*, now the Common-Goal for Debtors and Felons. *Osrick* King of the *Northumbrians*, by the Permission of *Ethelred*, King of the *Mercians*, to whom He was then a Tributary Prince, founded here a great and stately Nunnery, A. D. 682, over which Three *Mercian* Queens successively Presided; and *Edelfleda*, Sister to King *Edward* the Elder, adorn'd it with a noble Church, in which her self lies Entomb'd. But these being destroyed by the Danes, part of the Lands belonging to the Monastery were enjoy'd by *Secular Priests* 'till A. D. 1058. at which time *Aldred*, Bishop of *Worcester*, erected a new one for *Benedictine Monks*, which is the present Cathedral, and was endowed at the Dissolution with 1946l. 5s. 9d. per Annum. Dugd. King *Henry VIII.* appropriated these Revenues to the Maintenance of a Bishop, a Dean, and Six Prebendaries. The Cathedral is now a Noble and Magnificent Structure, being much Improved and Enlarg'd in succeeding Ages; for *Ralph Willington* added to it the *Virgin Mary's Chapel*; *Nicholas Morwen* built the West Front from the Ground; *Tho. Horton* Abbot join'd to it the Northern Cross-Isle; Abbot *Frowcester* built the curious neat Cloysters, and Abbot *Seabrook* the great and stately Tower, a Work so curious, that

seve-

several Travellers have affirm'd it to be one of the best Pièces of Architecture in England. The South-Isle was rebuilt with the Offerings that devout People made at the Shrine of King Edward II. who lies here interr'd in an Alabaster Tomb. Among its other Rarities, beyond the Quire, in an Arch of the Church, there is a Wall in the form of a Semi-Circle, with Corners accidentally so form'd, that if any one Whisper very low at one end, and another lay his Ear to the other end, He may easily hear each distinct Syllable. There is great Provision for the Poor by Hospitals in this City, particularly *Bartholomew's Hospital* maintains 54 poor Men and Women, to whom there belongs a Minister, Physician, and Surgeon. And *Sir Tho. Rich*, a Native of this Place, gave 600*l.* by Will for a *Blew-Coat-Hospital*, wherein are Educated 20 Boys, 10 poor Men, and as many poor Women maintain'd, all Cloath'd Annually. Here was a *Charity-School* lately opened, and Subscriptions made sufficient for the support of 70 Children, with a handsom Allowance for the Master and Mistress. The Walls of this City were demolish'd by Order of King Charles II. because the Inhabitants had shut the Gates against his Father King Charles I. A. D. 1643. It was dignified with an Episcopal See by King Henry VIII. A. D. 1541. The Bishoprick was taken out of *Worcester* Diocese, and contains only *Gloucester-shire*, and is Valued in the Queen's Books at 315*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* per Annum. It is govern'd by a Mayor, 2 Sheriffs, 12 Aldermen, a Recorder, and other inferiour Officers, and lies at about 82 Miles distance to the N. West from London, in about 51 Degrees, 50 Minutes of Northern Latitude. Near this Place, at *Lassington*, on the side of a Hill, are found little Star-Stones call'd *Astroites*, of a greyish Colour, and curiously Graved in little Prisms, which being put into Vinegar have a Motion like other *Astroites*. They are to be found likewise at *Pirton*, somewhat lower on the *Severn*, at *Shugbury* in *Warwick-shire*, and at *Belvoir-Castle* in *Leicester-shire*.

THE *Severn*, having now left *Gloucester*, and united its divided Streams by *Newark*, on the Hill, lately rebuilt by the Lord *Scudamore*; windeth it self about by *Elmore*, a Mansion House of the *Gais's*, whence it has a View of *Prinknersh*, a pleasant Seat on the side of a Hill, the Inheritance of *John Bridgman* Esquire. A little lower, upon the same side, the *Stroud*, a pretty River, slides into *Severn* out of *Coteswold*, the Water whereof is said to have a peculiar Quality in dying Reds. It rises not far from *Brimfield*, once a Place of some Repute, having an *Alien-Priory*, which was Cell to the Abby of *St. Stephen de Fontney* in *Normandy*, and was given by

by *K. Edward IV.* to the College at *Windsor*. Hence it flows on by *Edgeworth*, between *Saperton* and *Pinbury-Park*, a fair Seat belonging to the late *Sir Robert Atkins*. Just below *Saperton* the *Stroud* turns short to the West, and flowing on in a streight Current, waters and gives Name to **STROUD**, a Market-Town famous for Clothing. It stands on the Ascent of a Hill, and is the chief Residence of the Clothiers in these Parts, whose Trade in this County amounts to 300 000*l.* *Camd.* per Annum, some making a Thousand Cloths a Year for their own Share. A little lower the *Stroud* receives a small Rill, from **PAINSWICK**, a Market-Town said to have the best and wholesomest Air in the whole County; near which, on the Hill, stood *Kemsborough Castle*, the Fortifications and Trenches whereof are still visible. On the other side of the *Stroud* stands **MINCHING-HAMPTON**, a Market-Town, once belonging to the Nuns of *Sion*, call'd by the Ancients *Minchings*, the Seat of *Philip Sheppard, Esq.* Not far from this Place is *Woodchester*, famous for its Tesselick-Work of Painted Beasts and Flowers, which appears in the Church-Yard. Two or Three Foot deep, in making the Graves; and **STANLEY** a small Market-Town, shewing the Ruines of an Ancient Priory, of which *St. Leonard* was the titular Saint; it was given by *Roger de Berkeley* to the Abby of *St. Peter* in *Glocester*, *A. D.* 1146, and was valued at the Dissolution at 126*l.* 8*d.* per Annum. Hence we must go down the *Stroud* to *Eastington*, the Seat of *N. Stephens, Esq.*; a few Miles below which it falls into the *Severn*, between *Longney* and *Framilode*. *Mon. Angl.*

AND now the *Severn*, waxing broader and deeper, hastens with frequent Turnings and Windings to *Frampton*, a little below which it receives the *Cam*. Not much lower, on the same side of the River, stands **BERKELEY**, a small Market-Town, having a strong Castle, tho' not so large as formerly, the Seat of the Right Honourable *James Earl of Berkley*, to whom it gives Title. Here it was That unhappy Prince, *K. Edward II.* lost his Life, and the Place where, they say, He was Murther'd is still to be seen. *Berkley* is reckon'd the largest Parish in the County. Just below this the little River *Aven* cuts its way into the *Severn*. It has its Rise scarce 9 Miles from the Shore near *Boxwell*, a small Village noted for its Wood of *Box-tree*, the Seat of *Matthew Huntley, Esq.* It had a Nunnery before the Conquest, which was destroy'd by the *Danes*. Hence it moves on by *Alderly*, seated on the Descent of a Hill, famous for being the Birth-Place of *Sir Matthew Hale*, Lord Chief Justice of *England*, who died, *An.* 1676, and lies here interr'd under a Tomb of Black Marble.

On

On the Hills, just above this Place, are found to this Day Stones resembling Cockles and Oysters, or rather Serpentine Stones and Scallops, very curiously Figured, which whether they were first form'd in *Nautili* Shells, or the Ludicrous Fancies of Nature springing from some kind of Plastick Virtue latent in the Earth, I leave to Philosophers to enquire. A little lower the *Aven* sees *Kingswood-Abby*, which, tho' by most Writers placed in *Glocester-shire*, is really in the County of *Wilts*, under the Power of their Sheriffs and Justices, but within the Diocese of *Glocester*. This Abby was of the *Cistercian* Order, built by *William de Berkley*, A. D. 1139. to the Honour of the Blessed Virgin; but immediately after the Foundation, the Monks were remov'd to *Hafilden*, then to *Tetbury*, and at last fix'd again at *Kingswood*, An. 1170. It was endow'd at the Suppression (26 Hen. VIII.) with 244l. 11s. 2d. per Ann. Speed says 254l. 11s. 2d. They have a Charity School here of 30l. per An. for the Education of all the poor Children of the Parish in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetick, set up at the Charge of a private Gentleman. Somewhat more to the North-East is *WOTTON-Under-Edge*, a pretty Market-Town, seated on a rising Ground, famous for Cloathing. It hath a noble Free-School, erected by *Catharine* Relict of *Thomas* Lord *Berkley*, A. D. 1385. and an Alms-House, which cost a Thousand Pounds, built by *Hugh Parry* Alderman of *London*, An. 1632. And the like Summ was given by *Sir Jonathan Dawes*, late Sheriff of *London*, for the Relief of the Poor. Further North, under the Hills, lies *DURSLEY*, the ancient Possession of the *Berkley's*, another Market-Town of Note for the Cloathing Trade. Below *Kingswood* the *Aven* receives a Nameless Rill from *WICKWAR*, a small Market-Town with a Free-School, and then flows on between *Tortworth*, a Seat of *M. Duncy Moreton's*, Esq; and *Micklewood-Chase* to the *Severn*: Which leads us next to *Oldbury*, the *Trajectus* of *Antonine*, which has a large *Campus Major* of the *Roman* Fortification to attest its Antiquity. Here the *Severn* takes in a small Rivulet from *THORNBURY*, a Titular Mayor-Town, where are to be seen the Foundations of a magnificent Castle, which *Edward* Duke of *Buckingham* design'd to erect, An. 1511. But he was Beheaded before he perfected his Design. They have here 4 small Alms-Houses, a Free-School, and Weekly Market. Below this we meet with nothing till we come to *Kingrode*, where the River

AVON Empties it self into the *Severn*, and parts *Glocester-shire* from *Somerset-shire*. This River at its first Entrance into this County receives the *Boyd*, a small Brook coming down from between *Pucklechurch*, anciently a Royal Vill,
now

now the Seat of the *Dennis's*, and *Derham* a little Village near which *Ceaulin* the *Saxon* in a bloody Engagement flew Three of the *British* Princes, where are yet to be seen huge Rampires and Trenches. It is now the Seat of *William Blathwayt*, Esq; who has built here a pretty new Fabrick. Hence the *Avon* passes under *Kanesham* Bridge, and sees on the North *Kingswood-Forest*, which was formerly of much larger Extent, but is now drawn within the bounds of 5000 Acres, consisting chiefly of Coal-Mines; within it are Two fine Seats, *Barr's-Court*, in *Bitten* Parish, belonging to Sir *John Newton*, Baronet; and *Siston-House* to *Samuel Trotman*, Esquire. Somewhat lower, upon this River, is seated that Stately, Rich, and Populous City

BRISTOL, part in this County, and part in *Somersetshire*, but belongs to neither, having distinct Magistrates of its own, and being a County incorporate by it self. It is a City so well furnish'd with the Necessities of Life, and so Populous, that next to *London* and *York* it may justly claim a Pre-eminence over all the Cities in *Britain*. It stands upon a pretty high Ground, between the *Avon* and the little River *Frome*, and was formerly inclos'd with a double Wall. It has a fine Harbour, which brings Vessels under Sail into the Heart of the City, and the Citizens themselves drive a rich Trade throughout *Europe*, and make Voyages to the remotest parts of *America*. *Radcliff*, on the South, is join'd to the rest of the City by a Stone-Bridge, set with Houses on both sides. It is eminent for its *Goutes*, or Subterraneous Vaults, to carry off, and wash away the Filth, by reason of which they draw all Carriages on Sledges, for fear the shaking of Cartwheels should loosen these Arches. It is dignified with an Episcopal See, adorn'd with many fine Houses, and beautified with 18 neat Churches, besides its Cathedral, which is dedicated to *St. Austin*, and stands on the Top of the Hill, where *K. Henry VIII.* founded a Chapter of a Dean and 6 Prebendaries. *St. Mary's* of *Radcliff*, without the Walls, is a Building of exquisite Workmanship, having its Roof artificially Vaulted with Stone, and a lofty Tower founded by *William Cannings*, who was Five Times Mayor of the City, and a stately Ascent to it, by a great many Stairs. *St. Stephen's* too is remarkable for its stately Tower of curious Workmanship. It has several Hospitals built in all parts of it for the Poor, particularly one for Orphans, founded by *Tho. Carre*, a wealthy Citizen, in the place where the Collegiate Church of *Gaunt's* formerly stood. Most of its late Benefactions are owing to the Munificence of *Edward Colston*, Esq. The *Frome*, after it has pass'd the Walls, runs calmly

calmly into the *Avon*, making a quiet Station for Ships, and a Creek convenient to load and unload Wares, which they call the *Key*. Between the Confluence of the Two Rivers, is a Champain Ground, call'd the *Marsb*, of late beautified with fine Buildings. This City is govern'd by a Mayor, a Court of Aldermen, 2 Sheriffs, and other inferiour Officers, is famous for its Fairs on the 2 Festivals of *St. Paul* and *St. James*, and lies at about 30 Miles distance to the South-West from *Glocester*, and 94 West of *London*, Longitude 16 Degrees, Latitude 51 Degrees and 30 Minutes.

THE River *Frome* has its Rise not far from **CHIPPING-SODBURY**, a Market-Town below the Hills, having a Free-School; whence it winds about to *Atton*, anciently a Seat of the *Poyntz's*, a little below which it receives a small Brook from *Cromhall*, where was lately discover'd a Checquer'd Pavement, about 15 Foot and a half in Breadth, and 18 and a half in Length, compos'd of White, Red, Blew, and Dark-coloured Cubical Stones, alternately varied, set together with a strong Cement, and, by the Skill of the Workman, form'd into a very curious Order and Regularity. Next, the *Frome* leads us to *Stoke*, the Seat of *John Berkley*, Esq; and so on by *Stapleton* into the *Avon*: Which before it enters the *Severn*, furnishes *Bristol* with a Dish, perhaps not to be met with elsewhere, call'd *Elvers*, for some time in the Spring this River is yearly cover'd over, and colour'd Black with Millions of little Eels, scarce so big as a Goose-quill, which with small Nets they skim up in great Numbers, make into little Cakes, Fry, and Eat. From *Bristol* the *Avon* runs between high Rocks; that on the East-side is call'd *St. Vincent's*, on the top of which are found plenty of Diamonds, commonly call'd *Bristol-Stones*, which, for their Transparency, may vye with those from the *Indies*. At the bottom of this Rock is a hot Medicinal Well, the Water of which is much commended for Ulcers, and calculous Affections of the Reins, being taken inwardly. The other Rock on the West-side also yields Diamonds contain'd in hollow reddish Flints. The *Avon*, after it has pass'd by these craggy Rocks, is met by the *Trin*, which is now dwindled into a small Brook, and waters *Henbury*, where is a Camp with Three Rampires and Trenches, suppos'd to be some *British* Works; and *Westbury*, where was once a famous College, consisting of a Dean and 5 Prebendaries, founded by the Bishop of *Worcester*, An. 1443. or, as some say, by *William Mon. Cannings*, Mayor of *Bristol*, which was endow'd at the Sup-
Angl. preffion with 232*l.* 14*s.* per Annum. A little lower the *Avon* sees *Kingstons*, where Sir *Robert Southwell* has a very pleasant Seat,

Seat, affording a Prospect into several Counties, just below which it is unloaded with a full Channel into the *Severn Estuary*.

FROM hence crossing the Country to the East, we meet with MARSHFIELD a small Market-Town, of Note for nothing but its Cakes; from whence passing along the Eastern Borders of the County, where it lies upon *Wiltshire*, we see *Badmington*, a noble Seat of his Grace *Henry Duke of Beaufort*, adorn'd with such stately Parks, pleasant Gardens, and fine Walks, that it may justly be esteem'd one of the most compleat Seats in the Kingdom. In the Fields hereabouts, which are never annoy'd by Serpents, are frequently found Cylindrical Stones, and Bullets almost as big as Canon-Balls. Next we meet with *Didmerton*, the Seat of the *Godwington's*, and *Leighterton*, near which is a large Barrow, or Honorary Tomb, which probably was thrown up immediately after the Battle fought at *Sherston*, between King *Edmond* and the *Danes*, A. D. 1016. From hence the Borders wind about by *Shipton*, the Seat of *Walter Estcourt*, and *Estcourt Hodges*, Esq. and the Birth-place of the ingenious Mr. *John Oldham*, the Poet. More North upon the very Edge of the County, stands TETBURY, pleasantly seated on a rising Ground, and in a healthy Air. It is a handsome and well-frequented Town, having a Free-School, and an Alms-House, by the Bounty of Sir *Will. Rumney*, a Native of the Place. Its Markee for Yarn, Cheefe, and Bacon, &c. is esteem'd one of the best in these Parts. It belong'd formerly to the *Berkley's*, but they sold their Right, with the perpetual Advowson of the Church, to the Inhabitants, who now enjoy the Tolls and Profits of the Markets and Fairs. It was once fortified with a Castle, said to have been built by *Dunwallo Malmutin*, King of the *Britanni*, about 2000 Years ago, which is now so entirely demolish'd that the Ruines of it are scarce visible. On the North-side of the Town is a Spring, whose Water, within 40 Paces of its Head, is of such a petrifying Quality, that it turns Sticks and Shells into Stone, or at least crusts them over with a hard stony Substance. Not far from *Tetbury*, to the North-West, stands *Beverstone-Castle* in the Possession of Sir *Harry Hicke*, Baronet, and *Kingscote*, the Seat of *William Kingscote*, Esquire. This Place hath been the Residence of that ancient Family ever since the Conquest, and was probably once a Roman Station; for, some Years ago, in a Field adjoyning, were thrown up with the Plough a multitude of Roman Coins, a large Statue of Stone, and a *Fibula Vestiarina* of Silver, Chequer'd and Enamel'd. From *Tetbury* the Borders wind about by *Culkerton* and *Rodmerton*, and cross the *Churn* at *Sarney*, not far

Eulog.
Hist.

far from *Dryffield*, the Seat of Sir *George Hanger*, and then leads us to *Kempford*, a Seat of the Lord *Weymouth's*, where meeting with the *Thames* it follows the Course of that River to *Lechelade*, a small Market-Town, standing on the Confines of *Berks-* and *Oxford-shire*.

THE more Eastern Part of this County, swelling with rising Hills, is call'd *Cotswould*, feeding large Flocks of Sheep with a White Wooll, and Fine Fleece. It is watered by the Rivers *Churn*, *Coln*, *Leche*, and *Windrush*. The *Churn* rises out of *Birdlip-Hills*, and after it has watered *Randcomb*, the Seat of Sir *John Guise*, Baronet, hastens to *CIRENCESTER*, a Market-Town of great Antiquity; it has been a famous City, and was known to *Antoninus* by the Name of *Durocornovium*; now scarce the fourth part within the Walls is Inhabited. The Roman Coins, Checquer'd Pavements, and Inscriptions in Marble here dug up, evidently prove its Antiquity. Here was a College of Prebendaries before the Conquest, and an Abby of *Black-Canons* founded by *K. Henry I. A.D.*

Mon. 1117. and dedicated to *St. Mary* and *St. James*, which was valued
Angl. at the Dissolution at 105 *l.* 7s. 1d. ob. per An. They have had Three Parochial Churches, viz. *St. Cecilia's*, *St. Laurence*, and *St. John's*, a very fair one, the present Parish Church, having in it 5 Chapels. *Aveling*, Aunt to *Thomas Ruthall*, Bishop of *Durham*, a Native of this Place, gave 100 *l.* to the building of the goodly Porch. In this Town are Two fair Seats, the one belonging to the Lord *Bathurst*, the other to *Thomas Masters*, Esq. On the West-side of the Town is a place call'd *Grismund's Tower*, where Men's Bones of an unusual Size have been found. There were some Years ago dug up in the Town large Vaults of Brick, which are supposed to have been made by the Romans for Baths.

THE River *Coln* has its Rise near *Whittington*, and thence slides on by *Compton*, the Seat of Sir *Richard How*, Baronet, to *Stawell* the Seat of the Honourable *John How*, Esquire, and so down by *Bybury* to *Quennington*, where was once a Preceptory of the Knights *Templars*, founded by *Agnes Lacy*, *William of Poitou*, and the Countess *Cecilia*, A. D. ---- valued
Mon. at 137 *l.* 7s. 1d. ob. per Annum. Next the *Coln* visits FAIR-
Angl. FORD, a small Market-Town beautified with a fine Church, built by *John Tame*, Esquire. A little below *Fairford* the *Coln* joyns the *Thames*, which rises near the South-East Border of this County, in the Road betwixt *Cirencester* and *Tetbury*, hard by the famous *Fosse-Way*, and then brings us to *LECHELADE*, another Market-Town, standing on the Confluence of the *Thames*, *Coln*, and *Leche*, where was formerly

merly a Priory of *Black-Canons* of the Duke of *Gloucester's* Patronage. The *Leche*, near its Head, waters and gives *Lel.* Name to **NORTHLECHE**, a Market-Town, with a neat Church, and a good Grammar-School, founded by *Hugh Westwood*, Esquire, who, as its commonly Reported, came afterwards to be low in the World, and desiring to be Master of his own School was deny'd that Favour by the Trustees. Near *Northleche*, at a Village call'd *Farmington*, is an exceeding large Roman Camp, named *Norbury*, 850 Paces Long, and 473 Broad, now a Corn-field; and not far thence is *Sherborn*, the Seat of Sir *Ralph Dutton*. At *Northleche* we meet with that famous Roman Highway, call'd the *Fosse*, which out of *Warwick-shire* enters this County by *Lemington*, and thence goes by **MORETON-Henmarsh**, a small Market-Town on the River *Evenlode*, and so on in a streight Line to **STOW on the Woud**, another Market-Town, having a Free-School, an Alms-House, and a multitude of Poor; thence it leads us by *Slaughter*, over the *Windrush* to *Northleche*, crosses the *Coln* at *Wynston*, and so brings us to *Girencester*, a few Miles below which it leaves this County, and holds a streight Course into *Wilt-shire*, and so towards *Bath*.

NOT far from *Lemington* where this Consular Way enters *Glocester-shire*, we see **CAMPDEN** under the side of the Hills, a Market-Town famous for Stockings, having an Alms-House built by Sir *Baptist Hickes*, to whom it gave the Title of Viscount, who lies buried in the South-Isle of the Church, which is adorn'd with such Noble Monuments of Marble as equal, if not exceed, most in *England*; He gave in his Life *Camd.* time 1000*l.* to Charitable Uses, as his Epitaph mentions. The Honourable *James Thynne*, Esquire, deceased, Erected and Endowed a Charity-School here, wherein 30 Poor Girls are taught to Read, Knit and Spin. On the North Borders of the County we meet with *Bekeford*, anciently a Religious House, Cell to the Abby of *St. Martin*, and *St. Barbara*, in *Normandy*, given by King *Henry VI.* after the dissolution of *Mon.* the *Alien-Priories* to *Eaton-College*; and *Dumbleton*, the Seat *Angl.* of Sir *Richard Cox*; with *Toddington*, which shows a stately House of the old Lord *Tracy's*. More to the South is *Hale's* Abby, of which there are now but small Remains, only a neat Cloyster; It was founded by *Richard* Earl of *Cornwall* and King of the *Romans*, *A. D.* 1246. for 20 *Cistercian* Monks. It was dedicated to *St. Mary* and *All-Saints*, and valued 26 *Henry VIII.* at 357*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* ob. per Annum. Near to *Hales* stands *Sewdley*, a Seat of the Lord *Ghandos's*, which had once *Mon.* a beautiful Castle, and a neat Church, both ruin'd in the *Angl.* Civil

Civil Wars, and WINCHCOMBE, once a populous Town, where King Offa, A. D. 787 built a Nunnery, and about Ten Years after King Kenulf laid the Foundation of a stately Abby for 300 Black Monks, and commended it to the Parro-nage of St. Mary and St. Kenelm. In succeeding Times it became a College of Seculars, but Oswald Bishop of Worcester A. D. 985. restored again the Benedictines. It was endow'd at the Suppression with 759l. 11s. 9d. per Annum. (Mon. Angl.)

A TABLE of all the Market Towns in GLOCESTER-SHIRE, with the Days of the Week on which their Markets are kept.

Berkley, ———— Tuesday.	Newent, ———— Friday.
*BRISTOL, W. and Sat.	Newnham, ———— Friday.
Campden, ———— Wednesday.	Northleche.
Cheltenham, ———— Thursday.	Painswick, ———— Tuesday.
Cirencester, ———— M. and Friday.	Sodbury, ———— Thursday.
Colford.	Stanley, ———— Saturday.
Dean, ———— Monday	Stow, ———— Thursday.
Dursley, ———— Thursday.	Stroud, ———— Friday.
Fairford, ———— Thursday.	Tetbury, ———— Wednesday.
GLOCESTER, W. and Sat.	Tewksbury, ———— Saturday.
Hampton, ———— Tuesday.	Thornbury, ———— Saturday.
Lechelade, ———— Tuesday.	Wickwar, ———— Monday.
Marshfield, ———— Tuesday.	Winchcomb, ———— Saturday.
Moreton.	Wotton, ———— Friday.

FAIRS

FAIRS in GLOCESTERSHIRE.

Acton, *April 14. and September 2d.*
 Berkley, *May 3d.*
 Bisley, *April 23d, and November 1st.*
 Blakeney, *May 1st, and November 1st.*
BRISTOL, *January 25th, and July 25th.*
 Campden, *July 25th, and Ash-Wednesday,*
 Cheltenham, *July 25th, and Holy Thursday.*
 Cirencester, *July 7th, October 28th, and Easter Tuesday.*
 Colford, *June 9th, and November 24th.*
 Cowley, *August 24th.*
 Cromhall, *Nov. 30th.*
 Dean, *September 29th. and Easter Monday.*
 Deorhirst, *May 3d, and September 14th.*
 Dursley, *April 25th, and November 23d.*
 Fairford, *May 3d, July 28th, and November 1st.*
 Frampton upon Severn, *February 3d.*
GLOCESTER, *March 25th, June 24th, Sept. 17, and Nov. 17th.*
 Hampton, *October 18th, and Trinity Monday.*
 Lechelade, *August 10th:*
 Marshfield, *October 13th.*
 Newnham, *June 11th, and October 18th.*
 Northleche, *June 29th.*
 Newent *Aug. 1st. Wed. before Easter and Wed. before Whitsunday.*
 Newport, *July 7th, and September 21st.*
 Painswick, *September 8th, and Whit-Tuesday.*
 Sall, *July 25th.*
 St. John's-Bridge, *August 29th.*
 Sodbury, *June 24th, and Holy-Thursday:*
 Stanley, *Saturday after St. Swithin's Day.*
 Stonehouse, *April 20th, and September 29th.*
 Stow, *May 1st, and October 13th.*
 Stroud, *May 1st, and August 10th.*
 Tetbury, *Ash-Wednesday, and July 22d.*
 Tewksbury, *Feb. 24, May 3d, June 11th, Aug. 24th, and Sept. 29:*
 Thornbury, *Aug. 15, Easter-M. and M. before St. Thomas-Day.*
 Tockington, *May 9th, and December 6th.*
 Westerly, *September 8th.*
 Wickwar, *March 25th, and July 2d.*
 Winchcomb, *April 25th, and July 17th.*
 Winterborn, *June 29th, and October 18th.*
 Wotton, *September 14th.*

Note. Gloucester-shire was anciently Possess'd by a People call'd the Dobuni; and during the Saxon Heptarchy it became a Part of the Kingdom of Mercia.

FINIS.

